

## 7. Hungarian Public Administration: Last Thirty Years, Waves in the Story

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### 7.1. Introduction – Defining Models

In this chapter, we<sup>16</sup> provide an overview of the Hungarian PARs, and try to analyze and assist understanding of these changes in the light of various models of PA. The chapter is divided into four main parts. In the first part, we attempt to define the type of approaches to PA, including the bureaucratic and the socialist model as well as the three identified reform-models. In the second part, we review major reform waves separately in various segments of PA: (a) structure (central and territorial organizations), (b) functioning (policy making, public service provision and administrative procedures), and (c) civil service. In the third part, we provide an overview of the Hungarian scholarly literature regarding PAR. Finally, we attempt to present a summary by interpreting the findings in the light of PAR models and answer to the questions raised by the editors of the book.

Hereby, we attempt to identify major reform movements in the Hungarian public administration and to categorize them into a certain type of reform ideology, or reform type/style (hereinafter: reform-model or model).

Regarding the potential models reflecting on the international literature, most importantly relying on Pollitt & Bouckaert (2004, 2011) and, to some degree, Ashworth et al. (2013), and specifically Hajnal & Rosta (2016), we identify three major streams of reform-models, namely New Public Management (NPM), Neo-Weberian State (NWS) and New Public Governance (NPG) according to Pollitt & Bouckaert (2004).<sup>17</sup> Besides, these three models may have do-

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16 The final version of this chapter is a result of a joint effort of the authors. Originally, the responsibilities for the sub-chapters were shared as follows: György Gajduschek the models, central government, decision-making, administrative procedures and civil service; Tamás M. Horváth local government and public service delivery; Károly Jugovits scholarly debates.

17 In the new edition of their analysis (Pollitt & Bouckaert, 2011) the authors introduced a new term: digital governance instead of NPG that refers to the impact of ICT on PA. Whereas this impact is crucial and largely changes the functioning of the public sector, especially administration/management, we believe that this is a different dimension of the changes.

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## TABLES OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES .....	8
GRAPHIC LIST .....	10
FOREWORD .....	11
LIST OF AUTHORS .....	14
1. Public Administration Reforms in the EEU – Introduction .....	26
References .....	32
2. Public Administration Reforms in Eastern Europe: Naïve Cultural Following, Hesitant Europeanization, or Search for Genuine Changes? .....	34
2.1. Introduction .....	34
2.2. Catching and Analyzing Administrative Reforms .....	35
2.3. Comparative Analysis of Contemporary Public Administrations and Their Reforms: Towards a Composite Theoretical Frame .....	38
2.4. Basic Research Implications .....	44
References .....	47
3. Public Sector Reforms in Lithuania since 1990 .....	50
3.1. Introduction .....	50
3.2. Early Developments: A Very Stringent Constitutional Setup .....	52
3.3. Developments in Central Administration .....	54
3.4. Developments in Regional Policy and Municipal Administration ...	59
3.4.1. Early Years .....	59
3.4.2. Debates on Different Levels of Regional and Municipal Administrations .....	60
3.4.3. Moderate Municipal Reform .....	61
3.5. Civil Service .....	64
3.6. Sector Wide Public Administration Reforms .....	70
3.7. Conclusion: In Pursuit of Efficiency? .....	80
References .....	84
4. Public Administration Reforms in Latvia (1990–2016) .....	90
4.1. Introduction .....	90
4.2. Historical Experience with Impact to Decision-makers.....	92
4.3. Interest Groups with Influence on Reforms .....	95
4.4. Reforms of Public Governance Model .....	101
4.5. Organization of PA Functions.....	113

4.6. Civil Service .....	122
4.7. Administrative Process and Procedures .....	128
4.8. Conclusion .....	132
References .....	137
5. Public Administration in Poland: Reforms and Systemic-Organizational Issues .....	139
5.1. Introduction .....	139
5.2. Theoretical Issues of the Public Administration Reform .....	141
5.3. Historical Context of Formation of Public Administration in Poland .....	142
5.4. Determinants of Administration Reform after 1989 .....	149
5.5. Assumptions, Goals, and Principles of the PAR in 1998 .....	152
5.6. Importance of the Concepts of Territorial Divisions in the Public Administration Reform .....	157
5.7. Structure, Organization, and Functions of Public Administration in Poland .....	159
5.7.1. Government Administration .....	160
5.7.2. Self-government Administration .....	165
5.7.3. Regional Self-government .....	166
5.7.4. Essence of Territorial Self-government .....	168
5.7.5. Functions of Public Administration and Territorial Self-government .....	169
5.7.6. Direct Democracy in Local Government .....	173
5.8. Public Finances .....	174
5.8.1. Legal Guarantees of Financial Independence of Local Government .....	175
5.9. Civil Service .....	178
5.10. Openness and Transparency of Public Administration Operations: Public Participation .....	181
5.11. Conclusion .....	184
References .....	187
6. Public Administration Reforms in Slovakia .....	195
6.1. Introduction .....	195
6.2. Sequence and Character of Public Administration Reforms in Slovakia .....	197
6.2.1. Historical Legacy of Public Administration Reforms .....	197
6.2.2. Developments – Realized Reforms and Their Contents and Character .....	198



6.2.3. Summary – Character of Public Administration Reform in Slovakia.....	203
6.3. “Marketization” of Delivery of Public Services, and Agencification.....	209
6.3.1. Local Communal Services Delivery: Massive Externalization .....	209
6.3.2. Education – Student Vouchers at Primary and Secondary Level and Performance Financing of Higher Education.....	212
6.3.3. Health Care Delivery: Competitive Health Insurance Financing and Plurality of Ownership Forms .....	215
6.3.4 .Agencification .....	217
6.4. Civil Service Reform.....	221
6.5. Improving Administrative Services and Procedures, E-Government.....	224
6.5.1. Improving Efficiency and Quality of Administrative Services .....	224
6.5.2. Administrative Procedures: “Red Tape” .....	226
6.5.3. Transparency.....	228
6.5.4. Accessibility and E-Government.....	229
6.5.5. Lack of Accountability and Responsibility.....	231
6.6. Conclusion .....	231
References .....	233
7. Hungarian Public Administration: Last Thirty Years, Waves in the Story.....	237
7.1. Introduction – Defining Models .....	237
7.1.1. Socialist System .....	238
7.1.2. Bureaucratic Administration .....	241
7.1.3. New Public Management (NPM).....	242
7.1.4. New Public Governance (NPG) .....	243
7.1.5. Neo-Weberian State (NWS).....	244
7.2. On Major Governance Fields: Structure, Procedures, Personnel....	246
7.2.1. Structure of PA.....	246
7.2.2. Functioning and Operation .....	262
7.2.3. Civil Service Regulation .....	273
7.3. Public Administration – Scholarly Debates over Models.....	276
7.3.1. Materials and Methods.....	276
7.3.2. Overview .....	279

7.3.3. On Various Models of PAR .....	280
7.4. Conclusion: Stages and Models in Hungary with Further Considerations .....	283
References .....	291
8. Slovene Public Administration Reform: Europeanization as a Bridge over Traditional and Post-Socialist Legacies .....	302
8.1. Introductory Characteristics of Slovenia and Its Public Administration .....	302
8.2. Mainstream PAR in Slovenia 1991–2016 .....	307
8.2.1. Paradigms Shift in National Strategies on PAR in Slovenia .....	307
8.2.2. Organization, Decentralization, Funding, and Functions of the PA .....	313
8.2.3. Civil Service and Integrity System .....	320
8.2.4. Good Administration: Modernized Administrative Procedures and Transparency .....	325
8.3. Conclusion .....	331
References .....	333
9. Reform of the Croatian Public Administration: Between Patchy Europeanization and Bumpy Modernization .....	339
9.1. Introduction .....	339
9.2. Croatia as a Country Imbued with History .....	342
9.3. Croatian Public Administration .....	347
9.3.1. Outline .....	347
9.3.2. Development .....	350
9.3.3. Main Problems and Attempts to Solve Them .....	357
9.3.4. Reform Concepts and Processes .....	368
9.3.5. Future of Croatian Public Administration: Modernization, Inertia, or Decline .....	377
9.4. Conclusion .....	379
References .....	382
10. Public Administration Reform in Romania after 25 Years .....	389
10.1. Introduction .....	389
10.2. General Information about Romania's Public Administration .....	389
10.3. PAR in Romania. Challenges and Changes .....	391
10.3.1. Communist Legacy .....	392
10.3.2. Motivation for Reform – External vs. Internal Pressures .....	393

10.3.3. Reform Coherence (or Lack of It) .....	395
10.3.4. Magnitude and Approach. Sectorial Policy vs. Structural Reforms .....	398
10.3.5. Pre-Bureaucracy towards Post-Bureaucracy .....	400
10.3.6. Context of Reform.....	402
10.4. Specifics of the Administrative System. Civil Service, Decentralization, Agencification, Public Funding .....	406
10.4.1. Civil Service .....	406
10.4.2. Reform and Decentralization Process .....	410
10.4.3. Public Funding and Agencification .....	415
10.5. Conclusion.....	419
References.....	422
11. Public Administration Reform in Bulgaria: Weberian Bureaucracy, New Public Management, and Good Governance at the Same Time .....	427
11.1. Introduction and Country Overview.....	427
11.2. PAR Overview: Three Stages and Concepts of Public Governance .....	429
11.2.1. First Stage of the Reform From State Socialism to Democracy .....	430
11.2.2. Second Stage: Towards Traditional Administration and Public Governance through the Private Sector .....	433
11.2.3. Third Stage: Towards Good Governance .....	444
11.2.4. More Centralization than Decentralization.....	457
11.3. Conclusion: Setting of Administrative Practices instead of Governance Model .....	466
References.....	468
12. Conclusion: Main Themes of Public Administration Reforms in the Eastern EU Member States.....	471
12.1. Convergence, Divergence, and Administrative Spaces.....	471
12.2. Call them EEU-11 .....	474
12.3. EU, EEU-11, or Case-by-case? .....	477
12.4. Initial Institutional Steps.....	479
12.5. Non-Alignment of Domestic and International Drivers for Reforms .....	481
12.6. What Are the Visions for Reform? .....	484
12.7. Where Is EEU-11 in the Broader PAR Debate? .....	488
References.....	492
Subject Index .....	495



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Polonca Kovač and Mantas Bileišis

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# **Public Administration Reforms in Eastern European Union Member States**

## **Post-Accession Convergence and Divergence**

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